

# Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center  
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.



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## Athena - Sealed and Headed for Norway

Wallops' Athena launcher was a thoroughly corroded stack of rusty steel in January 2006. Lacking manufacturing specs and drawings – nuts, bolts, screw holes, booms – had to be measured by hand and designed before the actual work of assembling the launcher could begin.

The launcher was moved to Wallops Island in December where it was power sanded, buffed to a polish, given three coats of gray paint, and prepared for assembly and testing.

During the winter, a NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract (NSROC) team continued refurbishing the Athena in order to have it completed by the first of May. The 75,000 pound giant would then be loaded on trucks, transported to Norfolk, VA., and shipped to Gothenberg, Sweden for final delivery to Andenes, Norway by May 24.

Three trucks, a crane, several transport and escort vehicles arrived at Wallops Island on May 1 to load the Athena.

The launcher was shrink wrapped with a very thick white plastic prior to shipment. The first truck was loaded with the 53 foot, 38,000 pound launcher boom.

Due to height restrictions at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT), the boom traveled north across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and then back south to the port in Norfolk.

The 8 foot 4 inch, 21,000 pound pedestal, 16,000 pound pedestal head, two trailers of tools, equipment and supplies were loaded on two additional trucks that departed for Norfolk via the CBBT.

A team of Wallops personnel will travel to Norway to reassemble and test the launcher at the Andoya Rocket Range in time for a sounding rocket mission currently scheduled for August.



*The Athena launcher on Wallops Island is shrink-wrapped and prepared for shipment to Andenes, Norway.*



*Photos by Jan Jackson*

*The Athena launcher is loaded onto a truck in preparation for shipment.*

## Cell Phone Use Prohibited

A recent change to NPR 8715.3B, NASA General Safety Program Requirements, states personnel operating motor vehicles at NASA facilities shall not use hand-held communication devices while the vehicle is in motion. Exceptions apply only to emergency, security and fire vehicles during official operations. Hand-held communication devices include portable radios, cell phones and blackberries.



Please note: hands-free telephone devices are allowed, but we encourage employees to focus on driving and limit any distractions for safety reasons.

For further information contact Timmy Abbott at x1647.

## Massage Therapist Will Visit Wallops

Massage Therapist, Amy Eckard, will be at Wallops on Monday, May 21, 2007. Chair massages will be offered in the Building E-2 training room from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The cost is \$1.00 per minute. You decide how many minutes you want and schedule for that length of time. Payment will be due at the time of your massage. Privacy is provided.

## VT Griffin Employee Dies



Sympathy is extended to the family, friends, and co-workers of G. Wayne Webster who died May 12 at Peninsula Regional Medical Center, Salisbury, Md.

Webster was a high-voltage electrician employed by VT Griffin. Besides his mother and step-father, he is survived by his wife, Donna W. Webster; three children; including Tony, who also is employed by VT Griffin; nine grandchildren; a brother; two sisters and several nieces and nephews.

## Need Cheese?

The Wallops Exchange and Morale Association (WEMA) will be accepting cheese orders until May 18, 2007



Order forms are available at the Exchange in Building E2. Delivery may be expected on May 29 or 30.

Call George Brothers at x1528 for further information.

## AETD Mini course #58

May 24, 2007  
10 a.m. - Noon  
Wallops video-conference  
Building E108, Room 318

Conjunction Assessment and Collision Risk Mitigation  
Presented by: Lauri Newman

Conjunction Assessment, the prediction and evaluation of the threat posed by one space object to another, has been gaining visibility recently as a risk mitigation option for Goddard assets. This visibility stems from pending new NASA Conjunction Assessment requirements as well as the consequences of the Chinese Anti-Satellite test and other events which have added significant debris to the low earth orbit environment. Since November 2004, the Flight Dynamics Analysis Branch (FDAB) has been performing Conjunction Assessment analysis for the Earth Science Constellation (ESC) fleet of spacecraft.

This short course will describe the FDAB Conjunction Assessment process, including a description of the in-house developed automated tool suite used to evaluate the threat posed to an asset. Experience in performing risk mitigation maneuvers will be presented, as well as statistics that have been collected on the debris environment experienced by the ESC spacecraft.

## Diversity Council Words to Live By

"Human diversity makes tolerance more than a virtue; it makes it a requirement for survival."

----Rene Dubos

## Wallops Shorts.....

### This Week on the Range

NASA Langley Research Center and the Federal Aviation Association's 13th Annual Runway Friction Workshop takes place May 14-18.

### Launch

A NASA scientific balloon was launched from Ft. Sumner, N.M., on May 9. The mission was a qualification test flight of the SF-450 film on a 39.57 million cubic foot balloon.

Debbie Fairbrother, NASA Wallops Flight Facility, was the principal investigator. Total flight time was 5 hours, 43 minutes. Float altitude was 128,000 feet.

### On the Road

Keith Koehler, NASA Public Affairs Office, spoke to the Pocomoke Ruitians, Atlantic District, Pocomoke, MD., on May 9.

Felipe Arroyo, NASA Electrical Engineering Branch, participated in a Career Day Event at Fruitland (Maryland) Intermediate School on May 10.

## Earth Day Photo Contest Winners

Nature Photography on the Facility  
First Place — Dave Brittingham  
Second Place — Dave Brittingham

Nature Photography off the Facility  
First Place — Dave Brittingham  
Second place — Anthony Guillory

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Arnett Knapp who died May 5 at Coastal Hospice at the Lake in Salisbury.



Knapp retired from NASA Wallops Flight Facility as the financial management officer. He is survived by his wife, Doris; a daughter; a son and a grandson.

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Editor  
Asst. Editor

Betty Flowers  
Rebecca Hudson